

**1. Requested Motion:**

**Meeting Date:** October 4, 2010

Approve the type and cost increase for palm trees slated for installation as part of the North Estero Boulevard Drainage Improvement project.

**Why the action is necessary:**

Council approval is required for contract changes in excess of \$25,000.

**What the action accomplishes:**

This action provides direction for the development of a change order associated with the landscaping for the North Estero Drainage Improvement project.

**2. Agenda:**

☐ Consent  
☒ Administrative

**3. Requirement/Purpose:**

☐ Resolution  
☐ Ordinance  
☒ Other

**4. Submitter of Information:**

☐ Council  
☒ Town Staff – Public Works  
☐ Town Attorney

**5. Background:**


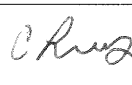
As brought forward to the September 20, 2010 Town Council meeting there has been a price increase to the palm trees planned for installation as part of the North Estero project. To preserve the original plan for palm trees a change order in an estimated amount of \$89,400 is required. Based on this increase staff provided an alternative to the landscape plan showing a cost savings by making a modification to the original design. It was determined that approximately \$32,700 could be saved by making changes that would reduce the total number of trees and mix the tree material. Council requested staff to look at pricing and obtain a professional recommendation for using royal palms vs. coconut palms. Staff contacted David Jones and Associates, Inc., the project landscape architect for the project, and Southwest Utility Systems, Inc. requesting the information that Council requested. Southwest Utility Systems, Inc. provided a price for royal palms at an increased price estimated at \$38,591.00. Attached is the back-up documentation from David Jones and Associates, Inc. regarding the selection of plant material.

**6. Alternative Action:**

**7. Management Recommendations:**

Approve moving forward with the change order in an amount estimated at \$89,400 to maintain the original specified quantity of coconut palms.

**8. Recommended Approval:**

Town Manager	Town Attorney	Finance Director	Public Works Director	Community Development Director	Cultural Resources Director	Town Clerk
						

**9. Council Action:**

☐ Approved    ☐ Denied    ☐ Deferred    ☐ Other

## Cathie Lewis

**From:** Greg Diserio [gdiserio@dmjafl.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2010 10:12 AM  
**To:** Cathie Lewis; 'Joe Harmon'  
**Cc:** 'Ron Edenfield'  
**Subject:** RE: PALM OPTIONS

Cathie,

Outlined below is the information and our recommendation as requested.

Subject: Royal Palm

While Royal Palms are the signature palm for South Florida there were several factors considered when specifying Palms for North Estero Boulevard project that had an impact on the final species selection.

### Project Description:

- The project proposed landscaping along both sides of North Estero Boulevard following the completion of the utility and drainage improvements.
- The roadway has a very limited planting area.
- There are existing power lines running throughout the length of the project.
- Irrigation is not being planned by the Town for the project.
- A palm species with sufficient pedestrian head clearance is required.

### Environmental Factors:

- The project is in an area impacted by high salt conditions due to the proximity to the Gulf of Mexico.
- The project area has typically received flood waters from storm events, thereby increasing the salt impacts.

### Species Selection:

Setting aesthetic differences aside, the bullet points below reflect some statement of facts regarding each palm species considered for this project.

### Royal Palms:

- Royal Palms have moderate salt tolerance.
- The Royal Palm has straight trunks with palmate fronds.
- While the Royal is drought tolerant, utilizing these palms in a landscape that doesn't have irrigation which would assist in the reduction of salt build up in the soils would stress the palms. Salt damage on fronds may also be noticed more in stressed plants.
- The buttress on the Royal can get quite large, which may pose a problem in the tight planting areas.
- Royals Palms would require added maintenance, above the anticipated maintenance requirements, to minimize the conflicts with the overhead power lines. This maintenance would result in producing a lopsided head.

### Cabbage Palms:

- Cabbage (Sabal Palm) has high salt tolerance and are very drought tolerant.
- The Cabbage Palm has straight trunks with palmate fronds.

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- The maintenance for this palm would include the removal of dead fronds and seed pods.

Coconut Palms:

- Coconut Palms have a high salt tolerance and are very drought tolerant.
- The Coconut Palms have curved trunks with pinnate fronds which would assist to some degree in minimizing impacts to power lines.
- The maintenance for Coconut Palms would include the removal of the coconut to prevent them from falling and some pruning of fronds.

Based on the site environmental and horticultural conditions the Cabbage and/or Coconut Palms were specified for the project. Our office still recommends these selections over the Royal Palms.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

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